

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is requested. Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 18 have been amended.

In the Official Action dated December 14, 2007, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 8-15 and 17-23 and 25-27 under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by England (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,991) and claims 5-7 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over England in view of Rutledge et al, "*Using Microsoft PowerPoint 2000*." Further, the Examiner rejects claim 16-24 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over England over the Examiner's Official Notice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(e)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 8-15 and 17-23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by England. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

"To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." MPEP § 2131. The Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") determines the scope of claims in patent applications not solely on the basis of the claim language, but upon giving claims their broadest reasonable construction "in light of the specification as it would be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art." MPEP § 2111 (citing *In re Am. Acad. of Sci. Tech. Ctr.*, 367 F.3d 1359, 1364 (Fed. Cir. 2004)).

Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 11 and 18 to recite the limitation that the shared browser used by the "other computers" or those of the "followers", as recited in the specification, can be of various combinations of the shared web browser of the "leader" computer. This is a clear distinction in the system of England which states, "It is required that the guide and client(s) use the same underlying conventional browser for the Hamelin

system to function properly.” Column 13, lines 13-15. In contrast, the present invention has no such restraint on the underlying browser to be identical;

“The Internet browser in use by the attendee is thereby automatically converted into the shared web browser of the present invention. Regardless of the underlying web browser used by the participants, the screen display is transformed such that while the browser interface looks quite similar, the appropriate button bars of the shared web browser of the present invention are displayed.” Page 14, paragraph 2 of the specification.

This requirement in England reflects the information flow in the network as illustrated in Fig. 12, in contrast to the network of the present invention as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The Applicant has amended the claims 5, 8, 9, 11 and 18, so as to recite that the information in the window (34) of the screen display (31) of the present invention is identical in the single conference, which is not a limitation which is possible or desired in England. As can be seen from the Fig. 9 and 10 of England, the guide is viewing various “sub-screens” as participating in various conferences. Specifically, as illustrated in Fig. 8, and explained in column 12, lines 15-28 of England, the guide is working with multiple clients on different topics and therefore not everyone in the conference will have the same information during the single conference. The guide in England may be reviewing separate pages in a different window which is not being viewed by the remainder of the participants in the single conference. See Fig. 10, box 1008. This eliminates the shared conference effect and separates the guides or (leader) from the clients. Further, it is certainly possible for the guide in England to get another request for a new session or to return to a previously initiated session.

Applicant has amended claim 4 so as to recite that the tool bar buttons are different in the “leaders” browser and the browser of the “followers”, and that at least one of the tool bar buttons is an indicator. This is in distinct contrast to the England application wherein the buttons are not unique for use in the system and are not interactive. See Fig. 9 of England and Fig. 3 of the present invention. Buttons such as “forward” and “back” are similar to both the England browser and the shared browser of the present invention, however, the remaining buttons that would normally appear with a particular browser are replaced in the present invention by unique buttons for conducting a collaborative conference. Pages 9 and 10 of the specification. Moreover, Applicant has amended claim 4 to recite that at least one of the buttons is an interactive indicator. Specifically, the browser of the present invention includes a button (64) that allows the user/follower to notify the presenter that he or she has a question; the presenter has a button (45) which “flashes” as a visual indicator that (upon clicking the button) will notify the leader as to which participant has a question. Page 10, second paragraph and page 11, second paragraph of the specification. In contrast, no interactive button exists in England wherein the question is merely sent by using frame 908 which is a specified frame on the display of the user. Column 12, lines 53-58 of England, see also Fig 9. No interactive indicator exists, but rather a separated frame wherein the question is just sent without indication.

Applicant has amended claim 13 to recite the exchange of the interface between the leader computer and the follower computer. Specifically, the exchange is performed by the leader pressing the “co-star” button (70) thereby changing the leader to one of the other participants. Page 10, last sentence. The Examiner opines that this feature is equivalent to the “share pointer” which is discussed in the England application. Official Action, page 8, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and submits the

“share pointer” feature discussed in the Background section of England is not described in the specification under the Summary or Detailed Description so as to obtain a clear understanding of the feature as part of the system of England. Furthermore, the share pointer as described in the Background section does not require or discuss the exchange of the leader position to the user/follower position as required in the present invention. Applicant submits the “exchange” feature is based on the ability of the shared browser of the present invention to modify and adjust (as described herein with regard to the variation in the underlying browser of the present invention in contrast to the necessity of the underlying browser in England) so as to allow the exchange. Applicant respectfully submits that since the “share pointer” feature is not described with any specificity in England, it is difficult to appreciate the limitation of the feature for analysis. However, Applicant respectfully submits the limitations in the claims 5, 13 and 25 are not within the comments of the “share pointer” feature discussed in England.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims distinguish over the prior art, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 USC §102 rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 5-7, under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over England in view of Rutledge et al, “Using Microsoft PowerPoint 2000.” Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

A rejection under §103 requires a showing of all of the following: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine the references as suggested by the Examiner (it is not sufficient to say that the cited reference can be modified or combined without a teaching in the prior art to suggest the desirability of the modification; 2) there must

also be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the references must teach or suggest all limitations of the claims. The teaching or suggestion to combine or modify the applied art and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not in applicant's specification (MPEP § 2143).

The combination of references cited does not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Further, the references do not provide a suggestion or motivation to modify or combine the references as suggested by the Examiner.

In England, there are various sessions available however, only one is an interactive "live" session wherein there is continuous communication as in the present invention. England, Column 11, lines 50-55. In the live interactive session, or "help desk" session, (see column 11 lines 65-67 and column 12), the guide is introduced via an inquiry as explained in column 12, lines 1-15, so as to begin the session. As can be understood from the text and Figs 6, 7 and 8, of England, the guide is involved in multiple sessions but each session has a different topic or instruction. In contrast, in the present invention the conferences are scheduled in advance. This limitation, recited in the method claims, e.g. claim 5, a) and b), further illustrates the difference in the invention of England; basically, a "help desk" to guide clients to find information, in contrast to the present invention which is a discussion where all participants are inquiring to address issues and thereafter, reviewing specific information. This is an important difference and effects the components of the apparatus of both England and the present invention as discussed herein. The limitations recited in claim 5, a) and b) are not in the England application because they are not part of the invention nor are they a desired limitation whether they could be combined or not based on the apparatus used and concept behind the England invention. Clearly no motivation could exist to combine England with Rutledge because this combination is not a desired feature of England. The Examiner

does not cite any particular portion of the England application which would motivate one skilled in the art to combine the references for this purpose.

Applicant has amended claim 5 to recite “a main window of a display of the computer of each of the other of said plurality of participants displays identical information generally simultaneously as the present information on the leaders computer;...”. It is recognized by a review of Fig 9 and 10 of England, in contrast to Figs. 2 and 3 of the present invention, that the main window of the guide's computer and the main window of the clients computer in England, does not illustrate identical information. This is based on the requirements as defined in the Hamelin system in the England application. The additional requirements of the Hamelin system and the England system, in general, require additional components (as discussed herein) which define differences in the present invention and the England application and are the basis in the specific differences, as discussed herein. Further, this basic difference, regarding what is being viewed, illustrates the central concept of the present invention; a leader as a participant of a conference/conversation, as opposed to the instructional or service orientated concept of England. In any event, this limitation is not found in England or Rutledge and therefore, fails to teach each limitation of the claim as amended, and therefore, can not support and rejection based on 35 USC §103(a).

In regard to claims 16 and 24, Applicant appreciates the “official notice” taken by the Examiner, however, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 from which they depend to distinguish over the related art. Applicant respectfully submits the claims are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims distinguish over the prior art, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 USC §103 rejections.

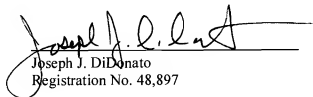
CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that pending claims 1-27 are allowable, that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that the Examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of the fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-2555.

Respectfully submitted,

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